(c) A decision in this regard will be taken after finalisation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Maharashtra Karnataka border issue

*314. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request from Covernment of Maharashtra for holding public opinion poll in border areas of Maharashtra and Karnataka to resolve the long pending border dispute; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) In early 1989, the Government of Maharashtra had suggested holding of Opinion Poll to resolve the dispute. This was reiterated by the Chief Minister, Maharashtra in his letter dated 29-10-1990 addressed to the then Home Minister.

(b) The Central Government is of the view that the problem is to be settled primarily by the concerned States by mutual consultation.

Allotment of Petrol pumps to handicapped persons

*315. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handicapped persons are allotted L.P.G. agencies and petrol/diesel retail outlets; and

(b) if so, the number of such persons who have been allotted such agencies in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 6 Retail Outlets were awarded to handicapped persons in U.P. during the last two years, i.e. 1989-90 1990-91.

Control of noise pollution

*316. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay down norms for the control of noise pollution; and

(b) whether the noise pollution from vehicles is proposed to be controlled as per international norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir, Ambient air quality standards in respect of noise for different categories of areas have been notified under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Noise limits have been prescribed for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipment to be adopted at the manufacturing stage. Noise limits for automobiles have to be met by 31st December, 1992 while those for appliances and equipment are to be met by 31st December, 1993. State Governments have been asked to restrict and minimise the noise pollution, particularly for places like hospitals, schools, courts etc. There was agreement on this in the recent meeting of Environment Ministers of State Governments and Lieutinant Governors of Union Territories.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Hussain Sagar and Jeedimetla areas in Hyderabad

*317. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Australian Government has offered assistance to

check pollution in the Hussain Sagar and Jeedimetla areas in Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the details of the assistance sought and the response of the Australian Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Australian Government has agreed to commission a pre-feasibility study with regard to a project seeking assistance for installation of effluent control and treatment systems, training and plantation activities to reduce pollution and for environmental improvement in the Hussain Sagar and in the Jeedimetla areas.

Productivity at Calcutta port

*318. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Calcutta Port continues to suffer from low producivity due to obsolete equipments;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Port authorities have been diverting the Calcutta Port traffic generally;

(c) whether the traffic movement during the last several years has been sluggish with moderate revenue earnings;

(d) whether the authorities had submitted a comprehensive plan for revamping the port; and

(e) if so, the details of the plans for improving the Calcutta Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e) The productivity performance of Calcutta Port Trust mostly compares favourably with norms which have been set keeping in view all factors including equipment profile. There is no diversion of traffic and cargo handled as well as the operating income have grown at an average annual rate of 5 per cent and 17 per cent respectively over the past three years.

Port development is an on going process and the programmes are finalised according to the need and availability of funds from time to time. Calcutta Port Trust have submitted proposals for 8th Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 937 crores which *inter-alia* includes scheme for replacement of floating crafts and equipments.

Sale of blue prints on HBJ pipeline as wastepaper

*319. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sensitive blue prints in respect of the HBJ pipeline project prepared in 1987 were recently sold as waste paper;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted an inquiry into the sale of such highly sensitive documents; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereto and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI S. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

War in J&K

*320. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: